

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

5 a first chamber including a first mixer disposed in a direction that coincides with an axial direction of an image carrying body which carries an electrostatic latent image, the first mixer stirring and conveying a developer containing at least a toner in a first direction and supplying the toner, which is charged with a predetermined potential, to the image carrying body;

10 a second chamber including a second mixer disposed in parallel to the first mixer, the second mixer stirring and conveying the developer in the first direction and applying a predetermined potential to the toner;

15 a third chamber disposed between the first chamber and the second chamber and including a third mixer disposed in parallel to the first mixer and the second mixer, the third mixer stirring and conveying the developer, which is received from downstream sides of the first and second chambers, in a second direction different from the first direction, and guiding the toner, which is charged with a predetermined potential, to at least an upstream side of the first chamber;

25 a recycle toner supply section that is disposed on an upstream side of the second chamber and is supplied with a toner recovered from a surface of the image

carrying body; and

a fresh toner supply section that is disposed on an upstream side of the third chamber and is supplied with a fresh toner.

5 2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second mixer conveys the developer at a speed lower than a speed with which the third mixer conveys the developer.

 3. An image forming apparatus comprising:
10 a fresh toner supply mechanism that supplies a fresh toner;

a recycle toner supply mechanism that supplies a toner recovered from a surface of an image carrying body;

15 stirring means for stirring the fresh toner, which is supplied from the fresh toner supply mechanism, along a first convey path with a first length, and stirring the recycle toner, which is supplied from the recycle toner supply mechanism, along a second convey
20 path with a second length that is greater than the first length; and the second convey path including the first convey path.

 4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the length of the second convey path
25 is double the length of the first convey path.

 5. A toner stirring method comprising:
supplying a recycle toner, which is recovered from

a surface of an image carrying body, to a recycle toner supply section;

5 stirring and conveying a fresh toner, which is supplied to a fresh toner supply section, along a first convey path with a first length, and applying a predetermined potential to the fresh toner that is conveyed to a confluence part;

10 stirring and conveying the recycle toner, which is supplied to the recycle toner supply section, along a second convey path with a second length greater than the first length, and applying a predetermined potential to the recycle toner that is conveyed to the confluence part; and

15 supplying the recycle toner and the fresh toner, which are conveyed to the confluence part, to the surface of the image carrying body.

6. The toner stirring method according to claim 5, wherein the length of the second convey path is double the length of the first convey path.